## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2001 LB 543

can give you a real good example. In Cherry County, they paid \$225,000, you know, to two community colleges and they probably only sent three or four kids there. So it is a big burden on the property tax out there for what they really get out of it. So I've really got to complain on this and I hope that we can keep it in there. And I'm going to oppose this amendment, I know that. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Coordsen, on the Wehrbein amendment to LB 543.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. What I have to say is going to sound a little bit like I think, this afternoon, Mr. President, because I can only stand here and echo the comments of the previous several I recognize, as the other people mentioned, the difficult...difficulties that the Appropriations Committee is faced with and will continue to be faced with, I am sure, in the foreseeable future. But I recall a brief flash of anger Sunday when I read some of the comments about, well, the state didn't have any money so we're going to put it on property tax. Now that's not what the article said, but when you said...when you say that you're going to restore or put back on the community college funding, it is one thing not to put any money into the property tax relief fund because we all understand that that was something that was a tool available in the event the revenues of the state came in at a greater proportion than what had been predicted. But coping with state revenue problems that come about because there is a million, seven hundred plus thousand Nebraskans not making enough money by raising property taxes does, in fact, not seem to be a good answer from a budget that is in excess or in the neighborhood of \$2.5 billion in state I think that...that the Appropriations Committee will, in fact, find ways to balance the budget without causing this increase to happen. Community colleges, as was said before, are like most education, they ought to be paid for from sources other than property tax. I have one county, for an example, years ago that had 43 hundredths of 1 percent, 43 hundredths of 1 percent of the student population claimed that county for an address and yet that county paid 14 percent of the taxes collected from property in that community college